

SENATOR REUTZEL: You mean, could they add on additional people?

SENATOR WARNER: After we pick up a county probation person.

SENATOR REUTZEL: That is not the intent of the bill and I think that's probably outlined in the bill.

SENATOR WARNER: I think another factor in your... How about juvenile probation?

SENATOR REUTZEL: Senator Warner, we did not pick up the juvenile officers into the probation system because of the exorbitant cost. I believe in Omaha alone, it would be very prohibitive so for the problems we studied dealt basically with the county and the state and the duplicity because what we have, if I could just take a little bit of your time, Senator, what we have is county and district people perhaps covering the same area especially in western Nebraska, covering maybe six or seven counties and you might have a district or a state probation officer going into Lewellen, Nebraska, for example, and seeing someone and then three hours later you might have a county probation officer coming in from another part of the county or several counties away, and that is his district and seeing another person and there is a lot of duplicity. We felt that the one person could do the same job and save some money in the long run.

SENATOR WARNER: There is one other amendment I may have prepared in Select File also in that, at least in the case of juvenile, where, as I understand it now, the county judge can determine that he wants a probational officer and commissioners really have no choice but to fund it and it seems to me it would be appropriate to use this bill to require that concurrence of the County Board when a juvenile probation officer is to be employed and not be in the position where the county judge can just go ahead and do it and the County Board has no ability to consider rejecting that as a part of the budget.

SENATOR REUTZEL: Well, I would be amenable to working with you on that, Senator, but we did specifically exclude juvenile probation officers simply because of the cost factor.

SENATOR WARNER: Okay, thank you.

SENATOR SAVAGE: The Chair recognizes Speaker Luedtke.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the original 1032 concept of the workings of the state probation officers fits right into this bill. It was originally intended that this is the way it was going to work but there were a few county judges and counties that insisted on setting up their own probation system. I think Senator Reutzel knows this, that this was one of the things that led to the problem. This is now correcting that problem and it is getting us to where we should have been in the first place so it is an extremely important bill.

SENATOR SAVAGE: The Chair recognizes Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: Well I guess I have two questions. I noticed Senator Carsten voted against this bill in Committee and I thought that would have disqualified it from this list but I guess inasmuch as it is on the list, notwithstanding that, I'd like to ask Senator Carsten the occasion for his opposition,